REMARKS

The drawings were objected to because they fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1). Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 19 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Reik et al. (DE 100 24 191 A1).

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to because they fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1).

A replacement drawing sheet is submitted concurrently herewith.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 21 and 22 have been canceled and claim 19 has been amended to clarify.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 19 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102b) as anticipated by Reik et al. (DE 100 24 191 A1).

Reik et al. discloses a torsional vibration damper for a torque transmitting apparatus. "The system includes a torsional-vibration damper that is positioned within the housing of the fluid coupling and that serves to damp torsional vibrations." (See Abstract.).

Claim 19 has been amended to recite, "a torque transmission device for a motor vehicle, the torque transmission device being a fluid coupling device being one of a Föttinger

device and a torque converter, comprising:

an impeller connectable in a torsionally fixed manner to a drive shaft;

a turbine connectable in a torsionally fixed manner to an input shaft;

a housing accommodating the impeller and the turbine;

a converter lockup clutch configured to lock together the impeller and the turbine in a torsionally fixed manner;

a flange disposed axially between the impeller and the turbine and connected in a force-locking manner to at least one of the housing and the impeller, the flange also being radially disposed outside of a radially outer end of the impeller and the turbine; and

a first coupling configured to connect the flange in a frictionally engaged manner to the turbine." Support found in the Figure and original claims 20, 21 and 22.

Reik et al. does not teach or show "a flange disposed axially between the impeller and the turbine," or "the flange also being radially disposed outside of a radially outer end of the impeller and the turbine," as recited in claim 19.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and its dependent claims 20 to 38 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 19 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Reik et al. (DE 100 24 191 A1).

Reik et al. is discussed above.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite, "a torque transmission device for a motor vehicle, the torque transmission device being a fluid coupling device being one of a Föttinger device and a torque converter, comprising:

an impeller connectable in a torsionally fixed manner to a drive shaft;

a turbine connectable in a torsionally fixed manner to an input shaft;

a housing accommodating the impeller and the turbine;

a converter lockup clutch configured to lock together the impeller and the turbine in a torsionally fixed manner;

a flange disposed axially between the impeller and the turbine and connected in a force-locking manner to at least one of the housing and the impeller, the flange also being

radially disposed outside of a radially outer end of the impeller and the turbine; and

a first coupling configured to connect the flange in a frictionally engaged manner to the turbine."

Reik et al. fails to teach or show "a flange disposed axially between the impeller and the turbine," and "the flange also being radially disposed outside of a radially outer end of the impeller and the turbine," as recited in claim 19. Furthermore it would not have been obvious to modify Reik et al.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and its dependent claims 2 to 6 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____

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